The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, securing to the industrial legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE

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"TRADE UNIONS ARE BULWARKS OF MODERN DEMOCRACIES."

The trade union movement means more than high wages, short hours and improved working conditions. It means intellectual development of the mass. It means independent wage earners, who carry this independence from the shop, mill and mine into the affairs of everyday life.

And herein lies a major reason for the opposition to organized labor.

The trade unionist is interested in other things than shop conditions. Every economic, political and social question attracts him.

His collective voice is heard in legislation affecting industry, agriculture and transportation. He fights for free press, speech and assemblage, and will go to prison that this heritage is assured.

He creates new public opinion by his constructive statesmanship, insistence on just relations between men, and his vigor in exposing wrong.

He demands that democracy function.

This type of a worker is not favored by anti-union employers, anti-union newspapers, anti-union business men, anti-union bankers and other political agents.

These elements want "contented" workers. They want men who are thankful for their jobs, who will permit the boss to do their thinking, form their opinions and tell them how to vote.

That is why these elements condemn organization for their kind, and deny it to wage earners. They look upon organization as a protection to their power over the unorganized, while a trade union is a challenge to their power.

The stand-pattism of these elements is historic. They never move until they are compelled to.

These elements want a slave class—not in name, but in fact.

Trade unionism is the monkey-wrench thrown into the machinery of autocracy and sham.

Trade unionism has established the first element of democracy in industry.

In the non-union shop the employer is absolute. In the union shop the worker has a voice in working conditions. As a citizen he is a newsie independent. Collectively, he is the greatest factor in freedom's cause.

The British statesman correctly declared: "Trade unions are the bulwarks of modern democracies."

Agitate! Educate! Organize!

SCIENCE IS WELCOMED BY ORGANIZED LABOR

Washington, Nov. 20.—Organized labor welcomes whatever assistance research and science can render to modern industry, said President Gompers in addressing the delegates at a preliminary conference on industrial research.

The trade unionist declared labor does not oppose the greatest production that is possible, but it does object to making production the object of life.

"A persistent effort," he said, "has been made to saddle upon labor the odium of opposition to improved methods and machinery in production. Nothing is further from the truth. Labor has opposed is an effort to exploit them by the use of improvements that are intended as a blessing to mankind. Labor has rightly suspicious of changes that are introduced without explanation and whose effect upon their welfare is not considered.

"Labor is not opposed to increased production or improved methods. Quite the contrary. We recognize that they are permanent factors in the betterment of standards of living for all humanity by increasing the things that contribute to better and more satisfactory living. But we hold as a fundamental that material products are not the ultimate of production, but service in a broad sense to humanity.

"Experience has taught organized labor that we can only maintain opportunity for freedom and well being by laws for human needs made for those directly concerned—the management and the workers."

HOW THEY LOVE ALLEN!

Topeka, Kan., Nov. 20.—The "high esteem" in which Kansas trade unionists hold Governor Allen is indicated by this statement in the Kansas Trades Unionist:

"The Kansas Industrial Court